

Technology Readiness Level

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| 1. | Lowest Level of technology readiness. Scientific research begins to be translated into technology's basic properties. |
| 2. | Invention begins. Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. The application is speculative and there is no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumption. Examples include components that are not yet integrated or representative. |
| 3. | Active research and development is initiated. This includes analytical studies and laboratory studies to physically validate analytical predictions of separate elements of the technology. Examples include components that are not yet integrated or representative. |
| 4. | Basic technological components are integrated to establish that the pieces will work together. This is relatively "low fidelity" compared to the eventual system. Examples include integration of "ad hoc" hardware in a laboratory. |
| 5. | Fidelity of breadboard technology increases significantly. The basic technological components are integrated with reasonably realistic supporting elements so that the technology can be tested in simulated environment. Examples include "high fidelity" laboratory integration of components. |
| 6. | Representative model or prototype systems, which is well beyond the breadboard tested for level 5, is tested in a relevant environment. Represents a major step up in a technology's demonstrated readiness. Examples include testing a prototype in a high fidelity laboratory environment or in simulated operational environment. |
| 7. | Prototype near or at planned operational system. Represents a major step up from level 6, requiring the demonstration of an actual system prototype in an operational environment. Examples include testing the prototype in a test bed aircraft. |
| 8. | Technology has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions. In almost all cases, this level represents the end of true system development. Examples include the development test and evaluation of the system in its intended weapon system to determine if it meets design specifications. |
| 9. | Actual application of the technology in its final form and under mission conditions, such as those encountered in operational test and evaluation. Examples include using the system under operational mission conditions. |